altered by then institutions so as to ensure a better match between the commercial needs of industry, the availability of resources with the institutions and in the capital market, and the demands of commercial viability. It is also expected that the precise interest rate charged to a borrower will be determined by the institutions' perception of the borower's credit worthiness.

For the SSI sector. Government has suggested that the lending rates of interest to borrowers who avail of finance from the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) through banks and State Financial Corporation (as well as the direct finance also undertaken by SIDBI) should be on par with the lending rate fixed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for term loans given by commercial banks to the SSI sector out of the banks own resources.

(c) The deregulation of interest rates is expected to result in more cost effec tive utilisation of capital and thereby enhance the efficient production of goods ana services in the economy. In the long run this is unlikely to have an adverse impact on either industrial growth or the price structure.

Review of priorities (or economic Reforms

232. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) what was the wholesale price index at the end of December, 1989, November, 1990, December, 1990 and June, 1991;

(b) what was the administered price of coal and steel at each point of time;

(c) what had been the rate of price rise and inflation during the period from December, 1989 to June, 1991;

(d) what is the latest position in this respect; and

(e) whether in view of the price be haviour so far, Government propose to review its priority for economic reforms and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (c) to (d) The Wholesale Price Index (WPI), rate of price rise and inflation for time points referred to in the question are given below:

Period ending	WPI (Base: 1981-82 -100)	% age increase in prices from Dec. 1989 upto.
December, 1989	1o6.4	—
Novermber, 1990	185.3	11.4
December, 1990	187.4	12.6
June, 1991	194.4	18.0
August 10, 1991 (Latest Available)	204.9	23.1

(b) The administered price of (i) coal and (ii) steel at each point of time referred to in part (a) of the question are given below:—

(i) COAL: The coal prices at the end of December, 1989 were Rs. 249 per tonne for coal produced by Coal India Ltd. and Rs. 297 per tonne for coal produced by Singareni Collieries Ltd. The prices of soft coke at end of December, 1989 were Rs. 175 per tonne for domestic use and Rs. 300 per tonne for industrial use. The prices of coal (all categories) have re-mained unchanged since then.

(ii) STEEL: The JPC base price of selected steel items is as under:

Items	Period ending			
	Dec. 1989	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1990	June 1991
Billets	5660	6055	6055	6055
Bloom	5260	5635	5635	5635
Slabs	5460	5845	5845	5845
Bars & Road (2 mm)	6610	7055	7055	7055
Angles	7160	7630	7630	7630
Plates	8775	9325	9325	9325
HR coils	9140	9710	9710	9710
CR coils	10380	11010	11010	11010
GP Sheets	10695	11340	11340	11340
GC Sheets	10745	17390	11390	11390

(There has been an average increase of Rs. 36/- per tonne in the prices of JPC categories of steel items due to increase in the special Excise Duty from 25th/ 26th July, 1991. The base prices of JPC categories of steel have further been increased by the JPC by Rs. 90/- per tonne from 31st August/lst Sept. 1991 due to railway freight increase.)

(e) The price behaviour is under constant review and monitoring by the Government. The Government has also introduced a number of structural reforms in the spheres of trade, industry, ex-shange rate, monetary and fiscal policies. These measures are expected to control inflation and to bring about a reasonable price stability in future.

Stoppage of grant to special category States

233. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have discontinued the payment of grants to special category states;

(b) if so, what are the names of the states receiving such grants;

(c) what are the reasons for its discontinuance; and

(d) whether Government propose to receive payment of such grants and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Finance gives the following grants to Special Category States:

(i) Revenue Gap Grants,

(ii) Centre's contribution to the Calamity Relief Funds of the States, which is in the form of a grant, and

(iii) Normal Central assistance, Central assistance for externally aided projects for State Plans and special Central assistance for Hill Development Programme allocated by the Planning Commission and released by the Ministry of Finance to Special Category States of which 90 per cent